

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST
MINIDOKA RANGER DISTRICT
Grazing Year 2014**

Allotment: Rock Creek C&H

Permittee(S)	Permitted Numbers	Permitted Season of Use	Authorized Numbers	Authorized Season of Use
NJ Brown	23 c/c		20 c/c, 1 bull	
Wallace Brown	178 c/c		153 c/c, 3 bulls	
Mason Bros.	332 c/c		291 c/c, 8 bulls	
Broken Diamond Ranch	89 c/c		75 c/c, 2 bulls	
Mathers Ranch	189 c/c		157 c/c, 3 bulls	
Brett Meyer	100 c/c		85 c/c, 5 bulls	
Kinsey Family Ltd.	420 c/c		315 c/c	
Tugaw Ranches	250 c/c		238 cows, 5 bulls	
Williams Properties LLC	100 c/c		83 c/c, 2 bulls	
W. J. & T. A. Williams	300 c/c		250 c/c, 5 bulls	
W.T.Williams	1082 c/c		902 c/c, 18 bulls	
	2,962 c/c	5/31 – 10/15		5/31 – 10/15

Compliance: These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of your Term Grazing Permit, consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Clause 8(a), and you have agreed to their conditions upon signing the Term Grazing Permit. Failure to follow the instructions in the AOI is a violation of your grazing permit. The contents of this years plan reflect the management we jointly agreed to at your Annual meeting. Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating or deviating from these instructions.

Notification: The permittee will provide the Minidoka District Ranger with written notification of any changes or deviation he or she wishes to make in these Annual Operating Instructions. This includes changes in animal numbers, class of livestock, period of use (changes in entry or exit dates from unit to unit), or changes in pasture rotation. The Minidoka District Ranger or his staff will verify the response in writing to the permittee. No changes in these instructions will be recognized without this verification.

Travel Management Authorization: This direction serves as guidance for grazing permittees authorization as it relates to the implementation of Travel Management on the Minidoka R.D.: Motor vehicle use off existing roads and trails (cross-country travel) is not authorized for any reason. This means livestock may not be gathered and herded cross-country with motorized vehicles. However, cross country travel may be authorized case-by-case on a project specific basis. Only the District Ranger can authorize these activities.

Authorization must be obtained in writing in advance of the specific project activity. Motorized access behind seasonally locked gates is not authorized; permission to access these areas needs to be obtained from the District Ranger prior to entry. Roads and trails that have been physically closed through ripping, barricading, etc. that restrict motor vehicle use are not authorized for your use. In the limited instances where there maybe structural improvements on these roads you will need to obtain permission from the District ranger to access your improvements.

Motor vehicle use is authorized on roads and trails signed closed to the public only for purposes of improvements maintenance. All activities need to be planned in advance during high use periods, such as hunting seasons, to reduce the exposure of these permitted actions to the general public.

Noxious Weed Management: Only hay and straw that has been certified as Noxious Weed Free will be allowed on National Forest System Lands in Idaho. Contact your County Weed Supervisor at 734-9000 for a list of sources if you need to acquire certified forage.

Billing Information: Grazing fees for this season will be \$1.35 per head month. Payments are to be made by the DUE DATE shown on your grazing bill. The process takes approximately 10 days from the time you submit your bill until it is processed through the lockbox and notification is received by the district; notice of payments must be received by the district office prior to your on date. If notice has not been received by the district office you may not turn out your livestock onto National Forest Service administered lands. Payments validate your Term Grazing Permit and authorize you to graze permitted livestock.

Livestock Management: The following rotation system is intended as an interim to alleviate drought related issues on the allotment. This system is considered temporary and should be refined as necessary. Livestock will be averaged off by removing 50%+ from the allotment five days prior to the off date and the remaining numbers removed no later than five days following the off date. To assist with the Scotch thistle problem in Fifth Fork and McMullen drainages spring entry will be avoided into these lower drainages during turnout for 2014. Turnout will be via Cherry Springs on the east side.

Fifth Fork Herd (Brown & Mason Contacts)

Kinsey-315, Mason-299, Tugaw-243, WBrown-156, Helman-77, Williams-70, Meyer-61,

Unit	# OF LIVESTOCK	DATE ON	DATE OFF
Fifth Fork Unit	1,221	5/31	7/7
Enter this Unit with 1,221 pairs for approximately 38 days. Apx. 350 pair should be placed east of the Indian Spring's road. The remaining cattle should be kept on the lower portion of the Unit for at least 14 days. The fence around the Boundary pond needs to be checked and the north gate opened into the Fifth Fork Unit only. A four inch stubble height will be the allowable use level for this unit. Cattle will remain in this unit through the 7 th , removed earlier if allowable use is reached or insufficient livestock water. All livestock will then be moved into the Black Hills Unit. Note: As cattle accumulate on the southern boundary fence not more than 100 head will be allowed into the northern most portion of the Black Hills Unit. Once cattle are allowed into the Black Hills Unit all Fifth Fork Unit cattle will be moved in the Black Hills Unit within 5 days.			
Black Hills Unit	1,221	7/8	8/20
Cattle from the Fifth Fork Unit will enter the Black Hills Unit for approximately 44 days. Cattle will remain in the Unit until the 20 th or removed earlier if allowable use levels are reached. The Indian Springs let down fence will be put up. 300 pair will be placed on the west side of the Black Hills Unit for not more than 14 days (7/8-7/21). These livestock will then be gathered and distributed as needed onto the east side of the Black Hills Unit. The hotwire fence in upper Shoshone Creek will be put up prior to entry and maintained each day cattle are in this unit. Livestock found within the enclosure will be removed daily.			
Shoshone Unit	1,221	8/21	10/15
Livestock will be put through all of the BH/Shoshone division gates and let cattle drift to the south. If drift doesn't occur within 10 days (8/31) cattle will be distributed along the west side towards the south end of the Unit for approximately 52 days (10/15) or earlier if allowable use is met. This Unit will be well salted along the west side from north to south prior to livestock entering.			

North Hopper Herd (Williams & Mathers Contacts)

Williams-731, Mathers-160

Unit	No. of Livestock	DATE ON	DATE OFF
North Hopper	891	5/31	7/11
Enter this Unit first with 891 pairs for approximately 42 days. A 4" stubble height will be the allowable use level for this Unit. When allowable use is reached or 7/11 all North Hopper cattle will be moved into South Hopper Unit.			
South Hopper	891	7/12	8/19
This is the second unit to be grazed for approximately 42 days or when allowable use is reached cattle will then be moved into the Shoshone Unit. Note: All calves, culls and bulls will be shipped at the Shoshone corrals prior to entering the McMullen and Shoshone Units. Apx. 50% (465 head) of the livestock will go north into the McMullen Unit followed by apx 50% (465 head) going south into the Shoshone Unit.			
McMullen Creek	445	8/20	10/15
Livestock will enter this Unit on 8/23 with 445 cows following weaning and remain for approximately 54 days until the off date (10/15) or until allowable use is met.			
Shoshone Unit	446	8/20	10/15
This Unit will be well salted along the south end and east side prior to livestock entering. Livestock will be distributed into this Unit with 446 cows on 8/20 following weaning and will remain for approximately 54 days until the off date (10/15) or until allowable use is met.			

Langford Herd (J. Williams Contact)
Williams-459, Meyer-29, NJBrown-21

Unit	# OF LIVESTOCK	DATE ON	DATE OFF
Cottonwood Unit	509	6/2	7/25
The south end of the Cottonwood Unit will be well salted prior to livestock entering the Unit. Enter this Unit with 509 pair for approximately 54 days. All livestock will be pushed into the south end, Sheep Spring area, the day after entering the Unit. Cattle will remain in this Unit through the 25th or removed earlier if allowable use is reached. At that time all livestock will be moved into the Langford Pasture.			
Langford Pasture	509	7/26	8/31
509 pair will enter this pasture after seed ripe on Idaho Fescue for approximately 36 days. Cattle will remain in the Unit until the 31st or removed earlier if allowable use is reached. At that time move the cows along the main road to the north and through the gate and into the Shoshone Unit. Note: Yearlings, calves, culls and bulls will be shipped at the Langford Corrals prior to entering the Shoshone Unit.			
Shoshone Unit	509	9/1	10/15
This Unit will be salted well along the south and west end prior to livestock entering. Livestock will be distributed into this Unit with 509 head for approximately 45 days. Cattle will remain until allowable use is met or the allotment off date of 10/15.			

All dates are to be considered approximate, actual dates will be determined by utilization levels. As utilization levels are reached for a particular unit, the cattle will be removed from that unit and placed into the next rotation unit or removed from the allotment. It is important that each unit is cleaned of livestock when cattle are moved. All bulls or livestock over 6 months of age will be considered as a permitted animal. Livestock will be permitted on the allotment after payment has been processed and only for the season, numbers and allotment shown on the Bill for Collection.

Ownership - Cattle grazed on the allotment under term permit must be owned by the term permit holder and branded with brand(s) authorized by the permit.

The pasture rotation schedule listed above is tentative as to days and dates and is our best estimate of equalizing the grazing on the unit. How soon the maximum allowable use level is reached depends on the number of animals, weather and ability to use suitable range, herding, and other permittee practices. It will be your responsibility to see that your livestock are moved from one unit to the next before maximum allowed use is reached. Rotation/removal of livestock will be required if allowable use levels are met before the planned rotation/removal date. You are encouraged to have the livestock moved from one unit to the next within 5 days at the end of any rotation time frame. The permittee is responsible to manage his/her livestock not to exceed the allowable use levels.

STANDARDS & GUIDES

Allowable Use: Allowable use is the degree of grazing specified for a particular area and/or plant(s). The use level stated below is the maximum utilization allowed on desirable grass and sedges for the planned season of use. These use levels are the same ones contained in part three of the Term Grazing Permit associated with this AOI.

Utilization: Utilization will be monitored by the permittee and by forest personnel. We welcome your participation in these monitoring activities. Monitoring of key areas will be used to determine the maximum allowable livestock use on the Rock Creek C&H Allotment. Key areas are defined as relatively small areas that serve as monitoring and evaluation sites. These areas guide the general management of the entire area of which it is a part, and will reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the range. For the most part, key areas on the Rock Creek C&H Allotment are the riparian areas and non-riparian drainage bottoms

You must be aware when these key areas have been used to the allowable intensity level, or if high impact/concentration areas exceed an acceptable size, you will need to move the cattle to the next unit or off the allotment. It will be your responsibility to monitor livestock use and move cattle when the following standards are achieved.

Sawtooth National Forest Utilization Standards

Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of growing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve specific vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project-level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.

A) Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Early season or season long pastures -- 40% Use. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures -- 50% use.

B) Riparian Areas: Maximum 45% use or retain a minimum 4 -inch stubble height of hydric (water-loving) greenline species, which ever occurs first.

If allowable use is achieved in all areas prior to the end of the grazing season, notify the Minidoka office before removing the livestock.

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

See Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit for a schedule of improvements. Improvements will be inspected and maintained to Forest Service standards before livestock enter the allotment. Livestock may be held off the allotment if assigned maintenance is not completed. Allotment management fences and water developments must be maintained prior to your livestock entering the grazing unit. Allotment boundary fences must be maintained prior to the entry dates of adjoining allotments. Permittees in non-use status are still responsible for their proportionate share of maintenance. When you maintain your water developments make sure the wildlife escape ramps are functioning. The permittee(s) will need to determine who has the maintenance on these fences during the grazing season and will inform the Forest Service when the decision is made prior to livestock turnout.

PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS - Please pay particular attention to all of the spring enclosures and insure maintenance is completed to standard. The Forest Service will provide any necessary materials

Livestock Distribution: It is agreed that proper salting techniques be used such as placing salt in areas of low natural concentration by the livestock, at least ¼ mile away from water and should not be placed within 100 feet of roads and trails and on ridges accessible to livestock. Salt must not be placed in shaded areas, in meadows or in areas of heavy utilization. Riding will be done to scatter cattle to avoid livestock concentration.

REQUIRED REPORTING - The permittee is required to keep accurate records concerning movement of livestock and furnish such information to the Forest Service. Actual use reports and Improvement Maintenance forms will be supplied to the Forest Service at the end of the grazing season. Accurate records of death loss by pasture during the grazing season should be submitted. Death loss records assist in identifying areas where control may be helpful. These records need to include: number of animals lost, cause of death (plan poisoning, predators, or other causes). All cattle must be counted before they enter the allotment unless the count is waived by the Forest Officer in charge. The Permittee will notify the Minidoka Ranger District at least five (5) days before the cattle are turned onto the allotment. This will allow district personnel the opportunity to count the livestock if we so desire. Failure to provide these dates will negate the possibility of any future adjustments in season, any credits or refund as a result of early off dates.

OTHER - Observance, documentation, and reporting of additional uses on the allotment provides valuable information with regard to overall allotment management. These uses could include: unauthorized livestock use, excess use by other permittees, wild horses, wildlife, mining related activities, recreation, etc. As part of the WSGA special use permit requirements, the main gate going into the Shoshone riders cabin will remain unlocked.

Additional Annual Management Concerns: Stock outside the permitted season or permitted area are considered excess use livestock. When excess livestock are identified as belonging to a permittee; the permittee will be billed at the unauthorized use rate and permit action may be taken. Dead livestock on National Forest Lands within 300 feet of a live spring, stream, recreation trail or roadway will be promptly disposed of.

If you have any questions or suggestions to improve the management of the allotment, please feel free to contact us. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Sid J. Lopez at (208) 737-3273 or stop by his office at 2647 Kimberly Road.

APPROVED BY:


District Ranger

5/13/14
Date

